(b) and (c) In Saudi Arabia, Judicial proceedings and punishments to criminals are determined by the Shariat. Accordingly no lawyers are permitted in court. However, as soon as the Indian Mission receives information about an Indian national arrested for drug trafficking, they make formal requests for consular access. They also submit mercy petitions on behalf of the individuals concerned, if so desired by the accused, with the local Government.

Production of fruits in Andhra Pradesh

*32. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh is the largest fruits producing State in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the annual production of fruits, category-wise; and

(c) the action proposed to assist the State in export to earn foreign exchange especially on mango export?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the latest figure available for production of fruits (for the year 1998-99), the position of Andhra Pradesh is fourth in the country after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(c) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is providing assistance for setting up cold storage and cargo handling facilities for perishables at the International Airport at Hyderabad. Besides, training programmes are being organised for the growers and exporters for pre-harvest, harvesting and post-harvest management of fruits including mangoes. The exporters are also extended financial assistance to set up modern packhouses for post harvest handling and export packaging of mangoes.